

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1. – 2. (Cancelled).

3. (Currently Amended) A retractor according to claim 2 6, wherein the abutment edges are formed by series of grooves or notches spaced along the arm.

4. (Currently Amended) A retractor according to claim 4 6, wherein the exterior shape of the arm and the interior shape of the mounting portion of at least one of the blades are so related that the mounting portion is able to freely rotate about the axis of the arm.

5. (Currently Amended) A retractor according to claim 4 6, wherein the exterior shape of the arm and the interior shape of the mounting portion of at least one of the blades are so related that the mounting portion is able to be locked to the arm in a selected angular position against rotation about the axis of the arm.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~A retractor according to claim 1 A retractor for use in surgery, the retractor having two arms each adapted to carry a blade engageable with one side of an incision, the two arms being connected by a pivot at one end portion such that the arms can be pivoted between a closed position and an adjustable open~~

position in which the arms define a substantially V-shaped configuration in which the blades maintain the sides of the incision in inclined relation, and means for retaining the arms in the open position, wherein each blade has a mounting portion engageable on the arm so as to at least partially surround the arm and displaceable longitudinally along the arm, and wherein the arm is shaped to provide a series of abutment edges spaced in the longitudinal direction of the arm and engageable with a part of the mounting portion of the blade so as to lock the mounting portion to the arm against displacement from a selected position along the arm at least in one longitudinal direction, wherein the arm is of polygonal cross-section.

7. (Previously Presented) A retractor according to claim 6, wherein the mounting portion has a smooth interior surface able to rotate about the arm.

8. (Previously Presented) A retractor according to claim 6, wherein the mounting portion has an inner surface having longitudinal grooves adapted to engage with corner portions of the polygonal cross-section in order to lock the mounting portion against rotation in a selected angular position relative to the arm.

9. (Previously Presented) A retractor according to claim 7, wherein the diameter of the inner surface of the mounting portion is slightly greater than the diameter of the polygonal cross-section to permit the axis of the mounting portion to incline through a small angle relative to the axis of the arm to thereby permit locking of the mounting portion in a selected position along the length of the arm by co-operation

with an adjacent abutment edge.

10. – 11. (Cancelled).

12. (Currently Amended) ~~A retractor according to claim 1 A retractor for use in surgery in combination with a set of said retractor blades, the retractor having two arms each adapted to carry a retractor blade engageable with one side of an incision, the two arms being connected by a pivot at one end portion such that the arms can be pivoted between a closed position and an adjustable open position in which the arms define a substantially V-shaped configuration in which the retractor blades maintain the sides of the incision in inclined relation, and means for retaining the arms in the open position, wherein each retractor blade has a mounting portion engageable on the arm so as to at least partially surround the arm and displaceable longitudinally along the arm, and wherein the arm is shaped to provide a series of abutment edges spaced in the longitudinal direction of the arm and engageable with a part of the mounting portion of the retractor blade so as to lock the mounting portion to the arm against displacement from a selected position along the arm at least in one longitudinal direction in combination with a set of said retractor blades, wherein the mounting portions of some of the blades are so configured in relation to the shape of the arms that the mounting portion is able to rotate about the axis of the arm and the mounting portions of others of the blades are so configured in relation to the shape of the arms that the mounting portion can be locked in a selected angular position about the axis of the arm.~~

13. – 19. (Cancelled).

20. (New) A retractor according to claim 6 further comprising a toothed rack carried by one of the arms at an end portion thereof remote from the pivot and a driving pinion carried by the other of the two arms at an end portion thereof remote from the pivot, the pinion being engaged with the rack so that driving rotation of the pinion will cause opening movement of the two arms.

21. (New) A retractor according to claim 8 further comprising a toothed rack carried by one of the arms at an end portion thereof remote from the pivot and a driving pinion carried by the other of the two arms at an end portion thereof remote from the pivot, the pinion being engaged with the rack so that driving rotation of the pinion will cause opening movement of the two arms.